CLAIMS

1. A composite sacrificial anode for immersion in a corrosive environment comprising a plurality of castings of a sacrificial material each disposed around a corresponding electrical connector for attachment to a structure to be protected, a part of the surface of each segment being protected from corrosion by the environment by being adjacent to at least one other segment; wherein the castings are connected electrically together only via their respective electrical connectors.

2. An anode as claimed in claim 1 wherein the castings are joined together by a waterproof mastic or resin.

3. An anode as claimed in claim 2 wherein the waterproof mastic or resin coats the surface of each casting around its electrical connector.

4. An anode as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein each electrical connector is substantially straight.

5. An anode as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the mastic or resin completely fills any gaps between the castings.

6. An anode as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the castings are identical.

7. An anode as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the sacrificial material is magnesium or a magnesium alloy.

8. An anode as claimed in claim 7 wherein the sacrificial material is an alloy consisting essentially of magnesium and from 0.15 to 1.3% by weight of manganese.

9. An anode as claimed in claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described.

10. An anode as claimed in claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

11. A method of producing a composite sacrificial anode for immersion in a corrosive environment and having an electrical connection for attachment to the structure to be protected, which method comprises casting a plurality of segments of a sacrificial material each in contact with a corresponding electrical connector, each connector being at least partly within its corresponding individual segment, and electrically connecting the segments together only via their electrical connectors.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein a waterproof mastic or resin is arranged to coat the surfaces of the segments around their exposed connectors.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11 or claim 12 wherein each electrical connector is substantially straight.

14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein each segment is identical.

15. A method as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein the sacrificial anode is cylindrical, square, rectangular or segmental, and is composed of between two and six segments.

16. A method as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 15 wherein each segment is formed by continuous casting.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein each segment is forcibly cooled.

18. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the cooling is effected by water.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the casting is effected by direct chill casting.

20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 19 wherein the sacrificial material is magnesium or a magnesium alloy.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the sacrificial material is an alloy consisting essentially of magnesium and from 0.15% to 1.3% by weight of manganese.

22. A method as claimed in claim 11 substantially as hereinbefore described.

23. A sacrificial anode produced by a method as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 22.